

<>EPA REGION III

<>Office of Public Affairs

<>P.M. Headlines

Thursday, August 7, 2008

***** P.M. HOT LIST *****

County Pays Fine for Tank Violation Cases

DUNDALK EAGLE Three sites in Dundalk-Edgemere were among 13 Baltimore County facilities for which missing paperwork resulted in a \$28,968 fine. In a large-scale case, rare for Maryland municipalities, the county will pay the civil penalty for the oversight. Documentation for requirements such as leak detection activities and cathodic protection (a system designed to mitigate corrosion) was missing from 13 county facilities, including the Dundalk and Edgemere fire stations and North Point Government Center, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported last month. "At no point were any of these issues related to a leak or corrosion," Baltimore County spokeswoman Ellen Kobler said. An EPA inspector identified missing documentation at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in April 2005, EPA spokeswoman Donna Heron wrote in an e-mail Tuesday. As part of the settlement of that case, Baltimore County agreed to conduct inspections at other facilities. The county violations in Dundalk and Edgemere were identified in April and May of last year.

Wanamaker School sale is on track

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS Now that the feds have given the OK, the sale of the John Wanamaker Middle School to Bright Hope Baptist Church's community-development organization is expected as early as this week. In December, the School Reform Commission approved selling the North Philadelphia school to Brighter Hope L.P. - in a partnership with the Goldenberg Group Inc., of Blue Bell, Montgomery County - for \$10.75 million. But under the terms of a 1997 consent decree, the district must give the Environmental Protection Agency 60 days' notice before selling any of 12 school buildings that have cancer-causing PCBs in electrical transformers.

Fixing a 'foul' problem

EXAMINER (DC)

That's how Beth-Anne Bowe described the smell — stagnant in the oppressive summer heat — drifting from the sewage pumping station across the street. The day before, nearly 9 million gallons of raw sewage gushed from a broken pipe into the Patapsco River behind her Halethorpe bungalow, caking its banks with everything people put down the john — from soiled toilet paper to tampons to condoms. "We put down lime to absorb some of the odor," said public works engineer John Van Ness, picking his

way through the aftermath two days after the spill. "But two hours ago, it was pretty awful." Baltimore County this year, combining for 13 million gallons of sewage flooding Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

A Potion to Beat Back 'Frankenfish'

NEW YORK TIMES Hardly scary as babies, northern snakeheads grow to be destructive. No doubt someone would have identified the northern snakeheads around Ridgebury Lake and Catlin Creek sooner or later, even if Bill Thompson had not scooted his golf cart to the edge of the pond behind his house and shot two of them with a .22 in May. But in this case sooner was definitely better than later. Mr. Thompson notified State Department of Environmental Conservation officials, suspecting that he had shot the weird fish he had heard about on the Discovery Channel. They rushed to his pond. And Tuesday he sat in the same golf cart watching a swarm of workers, technicians and agents dump a fast-acting fish poison into the murky green waters and wade around with nets, scooping out whatever they found alive.

Residents, planning board back Turf Valley condo plan

EXAMINER.COM BALTIMORE ([Map](#), [News](#)) - The development of Turf Valley in Ellicott City into a housing community — long embroiled in a battle over chemical contaminants in the soil that were used to treat the former golf course — could move forward. A proposed seven-story condominium development received not only the support of the Howard County Planning Board, but also the nearby residents of the Legends of Turf Valley, the overwhelming majority of whom signed a petition in favor of the Oakmont community. "We believe that the developers ... have done 'due diligence' in considering the impact on traffic, area congestion, and the environment," according to a statement from Helen Carey, chairwoman of the steering committee of the homeowners association's

Status Of Delaware Estuary Report Released

TOWN TALK (DC) The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary released its "State of the Estuary Report," following two years of collaboration among environmental scientists in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The purpose of the 36-page assessment is to provide insight into the status and trends of natural resources in the Delaware Estuary's watershed, which is home to approximately 6.4 million people. According to the report, the state of the Delaware Estuary is mixed. Some environmental conditions have seen dramatic improvements during recent decades, while others are becoming increasingly degraded.

***** MORNING HOT LIST *****

C8 study backs up lawsuit, judge told

CHARLESTON GAZETTE Early results of a landmark community study support claims in a new C8 lawsuit, a federal judge was told Wednesday. Preliminary data from the nearly 70,000-person C8 Health Project support previous findings that the DuPont Co. chemical damages the liver and raises cholesterol levels, Chief U.S. District Judge Joseph R. Goodwin was told. Dr. Barry Levy, an expert witness for Parkersburg residents, told Goodwin that the project is of immense help in understanding C8's health effects. "It's one of the largest studies of its kind ever undertaken in this country," Levy said.

"It has tremendous statistical and epidemiological power." Levy testified Wednesday as Goodwin continued hearings in a lawsuit filed against DuPont over pollution of the city of Parkersburg's drinking water supply with C8 from the company's nearby plant.

Bush moves to eliminate bay restoration funds

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL Millions for Chesapeake left out of budget proposal. Just three weeks ago, farmers and environmentalists packed into a standing-room-only hotel ballroom in Annapolis to talk about how to divvy up a record amount of money for Chesapeake Bay restoration in the latest federal farm bill. Now much of that money is in jeopardy, as President Bush proposed eliminating the first year of a new five-year, \$188 million program for bay farmers. That cut of \$23 million is in addition to cuts the president is making to national programs that local farmers participate in. U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., was blunt in his assessment of the president's move. "President Bush's proposal to kill the new Chesapeake Bay farm bill funding belongs in the bay's dead zone," the senator said in a statement. "He is wrong on the science, wrong on our farmers' needs and wrong if he thinks the Congress will go along with this proposal." Now Mr. Cardin and other supporters will have to turn their focus from celebrating the program to fighting for its survival.

Editorial: Don't turn back on bays

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES There has been a lot of debate recently about which steps make the most financial sense when it comes to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. One strategy with great promise, known in legislative circles as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed program, was written into the 2008 farm bill. Adopting an obvious tactic that could stem pollution, the farm bill provision supports -- financially and philosophically -- agricultural conservation practices that reduce chemical runoff from farmland. Because of the program's definite potential, it was especially disappointing to learn this week that President Bush's budget would eliminate funding for the Chesapeake Bay program. Maryland lawmakers, in fact, weren't just disappointed -- they were downright angry. In a statement, U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin summarized the situation well: "The president does not seem to understand that reducing pollution from farms is the least expensive way to control the excess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that pollute the Chesapeake Bay."

Report: Richmond area Va.'s smoggiest

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH The Richmond area has been the smoggiest region of the state this year, topping even traffic-clogged Northern Virginia. Ozone, the main pollutant in smog, has hit unhealthful levels on 16 days so far this spring and summer, compared with 11 days in Northern Virginia. In the Hampton Roads area, where sea breezes help cleanse the air, ozone has hit the unsafe mark on seven days -- despite smoke from the Dismal Swamp fire. The measurements are revealed in a year-to-date chart the state Department of Environmental Quality released yesterday. The numbers, including those for past years, are derived from an ozone limit -- the amount of ozone allowed in the air -- the federal government issued this spring. The new limit is tougher, which means more days violate the standard. "It doesn't mean our air is dirtier than Northern Virginia's," said DEQ spokesman Bill Hayden. "It obviously means we still have a way to go before we have air as clean as we want it to be." High levels of ozone can damage the lungs and aggravate breathing ailments such as asthma. Ozone forms when pollutants from cars, power plants and other sources cook in the summer sun. Overall, ozone continues to be worse in Northern Virginia, Hayden said. The region has been out of compliance with federal clean-air requirements for nearly 20 years, and cars there must get emissions inspections.

Rocks with live explosives removed from SP shoreline

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL The 150 tons of rocks embedded with live explosives that were discovered last week along a Severna Park community's shoreline were removed yesterday. Additional 5 pounds found in bottom layer. The 150 tons of rocks embedded with live explosives that were discovered last week along a Severna Park community's shoreline were removed yesterday. Now, the state fire marshal is investigating where the rocks came from before they were placed behind the waterfront home of Richard and Maureen Roden on Luna Lane in the Round Bay community, said Battalion Chief Matthew Tobia, a county Fire Department spokesman. More than 5 pounds of undetonated explosives were found in the bottom portion of the barrier by the time the removal was completed yesterday afternoon, said John Flood, engineer for the erosion project behind the Roden home. The rocks had been placed along the private shoreline to act as a buffer between the waves and land.

EPA Expands Study of Pharmaceuticals in Waterways

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to conduct a detailed study of the disposal methods used by hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospices and veterinary hospitals that wish to discard unused pharmaceuticals. The EPA is seeking more information on the practices of the health care industry to inform future potential regulatory actions, and identify best management and proper disposal practices. EPA has assumed that one facility in seven, approximately 3,500 facilities, would be selected to receive the detailed questionnaire. To gather this information, the agency has drafted an Information Collection Request and is now seeking public input on the request form. Public comments on the Health Care Industry ICR will be taken for 90 days after it is published in the Federal Register, which should occur shortly.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

From Early Bird Commentary: Recycling is pure gold EVERY YEAR, Philadelphia throws millions of tax dollars into the garbage. The city loses millions because far too many people fail to recycle, throwing away money that could be used for better schools, more police or many other worthy needs because people are too lazy, disorganized or ill-informed to separate recyclables from trash.

Wanamaker School sale is on track Now that the feds have given the OK, the sale of the John Wanamaker Middle School to Bright Hope Baptist Church's community-development organization is expected as early as this week.

In December, the School Reform Commission approved selling the North Philadelphia school to Brighter Hope L.P. - in a partnership with the Goldenberg Group Inc., of Blue Bell, Montgomery County - for \$10.75 million. But under the terms of a 1997 consent decree, the district must give the Environmental Protection Agency 60 days' notice before selling any of 12 school buildings that have cancer-causing PCBs in electrical transformers.

ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

From Early Bird In coal country, here comes the sun Carbon County set to be site of one of the largest solar arrays in the nation. The largest alternative-energy generating facility in Pennsylvania, and one of the largest in the nation, will be built in Carbon County, officials are scheduled to announce today. State Rep. Keith McCall said he will hold a 3 p.m. news conference with Green Energy Capital Partners - a Philadelphia firm that designs, builds and manages environmentally friendly energy facilities on

leased land -- to announce development of the project. The news conference will be at Kovatch Enterprises, the firetruck and emergency vehicle-maker in Nesquehoning. It is among the largest landowners in Carbon County. Officials either would not comment on the project or could not be reached, but Green Energy Capital Partners deals in wind turbine and solar-panel projects.

SCRANTON TIMES TRIBUNE

From Early Bird Wyoming County residents concerned about water sale to gas drilling companyA company has been obtaining thousands of gallons of water from two municipal water systems in Wyoming County for natural gas well development in Susquehanna County.Cabot Oil and Gas Corp.'s acquisition of as much as 40,000 gallons of water a day from the Tunkhannock Borough Municipal Authority and as much as 90,000 gallons of water a day from Meshoppen Water Co. has caused concern for some. "People ... are talking about it and have a lot of questions," said Gordon Robinson, owner of Donut Country on Tioga Street in Tunkhannock. "People in the borough are complaining about it." In June, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission gave approval to allow Cabot to obtain up to 40,000 gallons of water a day from Tunkhannock and up to 90,000 gallons of water a day from Meshoppen with a written agreement from the municipal water authority, Commission Regulatory Program Director Paula Ballaron said.

ERIE TIMES NEWS

From Early Bird Beach swimming restrictions lifted A swimming restriction at Presque Isle State Park has been lifted. Park officials banned swimming at Beach 1 West Extension after high bacteria levels were found in the water on Thursday. That has been lifted. Swimming is restricted when the level of E. coli bacteria exceeds 1,000 per 100 milliliters of water. The count for Beach 1 West Extension had been 1,147. Swim advisories at Beach 1 and Barracks Beach also have been lifted. Those beaches had remained open, though swimmers with open cuts or wounds were advised to stay out of the water.

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

From Early Bird Voters to decide on borrowing open space funds LOWER MAKEFIELD -- The Lower Makefield supervisors on Wednesday night approved placing a referendum on the Nov. 4 ballot that, if approved by voters, would allow the township to borrow up to \$15 million over the next 10 years for open space preservation. The money would be used to buy land outright or purchase development rights or conservation easements on land that would prevent its development, officials explained. The measure, if approved, would also allow passive or active recreational facilities on whatever land the township buys. If approved, the measure does not mean the township will borrow \$15 million all at once but only in increments as land is purchased. This simply gives the township the financial ability to act when land becomes available, the supervisors explained.

WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER

From Early Bird Sewer woes raised in West Pittston (Wednesday) WEST PITTSTON -- Angry residents peppered borough council members about chronic sewer flooding issues at Tuesday night's meeting. During heavy rains raw sewage backs up onto several streets due to outdated sewer lines, according to council members. "You can't sit on your porch," shouted one resident. "When are you going to fix it?" another yelled. "It just stinks!" still another yelled. Council members tried to assure residents the borough is moving ahead with sewer upgrade plans. When Borough Manager Savino Bonita announced the completion time frame for the \$26 million project could be up to five years away, residents groaned. Mayor William Goldsworthy acknowledged the residents' complaints, saying the current council is finally doing something about the 20-year-old problem. He pointed out the cost of the project as the cause for the delays.

WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS VOICE

From Early Bird Conservation District cites townhouse project WRIGHT TWP. — A townhouse development project linked to county Prothonotary Jill A. Moran and two county judges has been cited for several erosion and pollution violations that could carry state fines worth tens of thousands of dollars. W-Cat Inc., which is building an 86-unit development on Church Road just east of South Mountain Boulevard, failed to fully implement a state-approved erosion and sediment-control plan, according to the Luzerne County Conservation District, which inspected the site on June 11. Nearby Watering Run could be polluted because W-Cat failed to properly install a sediment basin, drainage ditches and fencing, according to a letter the district mailed to Moran and forwarded to the township Planning Commission. Conservation District Manager Josh Longmore said Moran, who is president of W-Cat, had not responded to the June 11 letter as of Wednesday. The district will follow up by trying to contact Moran by phone or reinspecting the site, he said.

POTTSTOWN MERCURY

From Early Bird sConservation association avoids paying bond to developer (Tuesday) NORRISTOWN - Montgomery County Common Pleas Court Judge Bernard Moore Monday denied a request for a multi-million dollar bond from the National Parks Conservation Association, which is waging a legal battle against the proposed American Revolution Center museum in Lower Providence.

From Early Bird Tight for cash, people , businesses seek to recycle (Wednesday) GLENSHAW — Forklifts rumble around the scrapyards, grabbing pieces of metal and plunking them on scales: Will the junk be worth a tank of gas or a cart of groceries? Nationwide, recycling facilities are doing brisk business. Weekends are the busiest, when people have time to bring in scraps like copper wire, brass bits, aluminum window frames and rotted pipes and cans, hoping to make some extra money. "I drive about 35 miles round trip to work every day, so this recycle made a good deal on my gas tank," said David Trombley, 51, a shower door installer and glazer. He walked away with \$133.40 at Fitzsimmons Metal Company in suburban Pittsburgh after turning in scraps left over from remodeling his basement bathroom.

POTTSVILLE REPUBLICAN HERALD

From Early Bird Sediment removed from Deer Lake DEER LAKE — The borough's drained lake is getting closer to being refilled as contractors continued removing sediment on Tuesday. William Guers, owner of Guers Topsoil & Mulch Products Inc., New Philadelphia, said his crew has been working since last Thursday. Guers said the work will probably continue for a couple of weeks. Deer Lake Borough Council President David B. Crouse, who is in charge of the project, said that the lake will be refilled once the sediment has been removed, which could be within a month, weather permitting. The lake was drained in June 2006 to remove silt when it was discovered that repairs were also needed to the dam. Since the lake was drained, complications with funding and adverse weather have led to several delays as work permits expired.

From Early Bird Holden: Time to tap ANWR oil In the face of an energy "emergency," U.S. Rep. Tim Holden said Wednesday he would now vote for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — a move he previously voted against, most recently in September 2006. "This is an emergency of the utmost importance," Holden, D-17, said in a phone interview Wednesday night. "I've changed my mind on ANWR." Two weeks ago, Holden said he now wanted to "drill everywhere" as gas prices and oil company profits hit record levels. While initially talking about drilling off the California and Florida coasts, his "drill everywhere" philosophy now includes ANWR — 19 million acres in northeast Alaska. Holden blasted big oil companies, saying they "cannot be trusted" and voiced support for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's call for more taxes on big oil's big profits. Also, Holden again expressed

frustration over Congress' adjournment last week before voting on any energy legislation.

ALTOONA MIRROR

From Early Bird Bird Brains HESSTON — With fish and high perches aplenty, Raystown Lake offers ideal hunting grounds for bald eagles. Each spring, four pairs of eagles return to the lake to take advantage of those conditions by building nests to house their eggs, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It also makes for a thrilling sight for Raystown visitors, who might get a glimpse of a bald eagle resting on a treetop, diving into the water or soaring overhead. But where is the best place to view these majestic birds of prey?

FRANKLIN NEWS HERALD

From Early Bird Sugarcreek sets public meeting on wastewater (Wednesday) Sugarcreek officials will hold a public meeting Tuesday to discuss the details of the borough's pending wastewater improvement project. The project will be outlined and information will be provided on easements, rights-of-way and lateral sewer lines during the 6 p.m. meeting in borough council chambers. Borough engineer Harold Bloomgren and solicitor Brian Spaid will be on hand to answer questions, and to assist in completing the easements and rights-of-way. Council is encouraging property owners to attend the meeting. The borough will require an easement and right-of-way from property owners in the project areas, including the Meadville Pike/Bell Avenue area. Several sections of sewer line - as well as sewer laterals - in the area will be replaced. Also, two sections of pipeline along Prospect Avenue will be lined and private lateral sewer lines replaced. The work is part of a commitment to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to minimize extraneous storm and ground water that enters the sewer system.

CLEARFIELD PROGRESS

From Early Bird Houtzdale OKs rules for new sewerage system (Tuesday) HOUTZDALE - Houtzdale Borough Council adopted rules and regulations for the borough's sewerage collection system during last night's regular meeting. Engineer Bill Gohn of the EADS Group of Altoona presented the final draft with a few changes and additions including the rate schedule, tap fee calculation, applications for sewer connection for residential and commercial structures, the permit to connect with and use the system and the ordinances. The fee schedule includes the annual bill of \$170 payable by June 30 with a \$25 late fee charged after July 1 and a \$75 late fee charged after Aug. 1. Lateral inspections will cost \$50, and various fines were listed. It was also noted that water shutoff results in a \$75 penalty payable to the water company.

SHAMOKIN NEWS-ITEM

From Early Bird Editorial: Never too late to protect public (Wednesday) Drillers began exploring the vast Marcellus Shale formation for natural gas long before state lawmakers and regulators began exploring the state's obsolete laws covering the activity.

DuBOIS COURIER POST

From Early Bird Residents weigh in on furnace ordinance (Tuesday) A large crowd attended a public hearing Monday to voice opinions on a proposed outdoor furnace ordinance in Sandy Township.

MILTON STANDARD JOURNAL

From Early Bird Creek work waits on state (Tuesday) WATSONTOWN — The “guillotine” has been deemed safe, but the creek still appears to be a threat at this time. During last week's Watsonstown Borough Council meeting, Terry Shultz of Elm Street said his great-granddaughter was hit in the head by the harness of a swing in Eighth Street Park. Members of council decided to take it down as a

precaution. On Monday night, council learned from borough secretary Edie Moser that Playworld Systems, Lewisburg, looked at the re-installed swing and deemed it safe. In addition, Playworld officials made the suggestion to institute a maintenance inspection of the borough's playground equipment, according to Moser. The borough is looking to mulch the playground and officials announced the borough received \$200,000 for improvements at the park. The news left Mayor Bob Brown clapping in celebration as it required more than two years to get the grant money.

CENTRAL PENN BUSINESS JOURNAL

10000 Tons of Construction Waste Debris Recycled

EAST HEMPFIELD, LANCASTER COUNTY, PA, AUGUST 12, 2008: Frescatore Consulting, LLC, reached the milestone of diverting 10,000 tons of construction and demolition waste debris from landfills in Central Pennsylvania. This significant volume has been accomplished by managing the flow of waste generated during construction projects seeking LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Certification. This volume represents approximately 2,222 large roll-off waste trucks being diverted from landfills since January 2006, or 117 large trucks per month.

TRI STATE OBSERVER

Park Service Will Review Power Line Route The National Park Service (NPS) is awaiting official written notification of the selected preferred alternative from the consortium of power companies. The proposal needs to receive approval from the appropriate regulatory authorities in each state. The NPS will ensure a thorough environmental review of the potential impacts to the natural and human environments under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). ...“The public may rest assured that every effort will be made to protect the natural and cultural resources in this outstanding unit of the National Park System, the National Scenic River, the Appalachian Trail, as well as the unique recreational experiences they all provide for today's visitors and for our children's children. At Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the National Park Service always makes every effort to balance legitimate societal needs with the legislated mission of protecting our local and national heritage,” said Superintendent Donahue.

ABINGTON SUBURBAN, PA

Final Permit RenewalThe state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) renewed an operating permit for Taylor-based Alliance Landfill, allowing Waste Management to continue operations through October 2010. ... In addition to extending the landfill's operating life, DEP has required the facility to pursue a methane gas utilization project, rather than just burning the methane created by the rotting waste. "Over the last couple of years, Alliance has reduced its waste volumes to 600-800 tons per day," said DEP Northeast Regional Director Michael Bedrin. "That has left the operators with an estimated 600,000 tons of remaining capacity in their current permitted area. This final renewal will allow Alliance to use that remaining capacity." For Taylor resident and self-proclaimed landfill opponent/watchdog Bob Folger, news that the landfill's end "may be near" doesn't seem like a reality. "What I believe should have happened is that with all of the inconclusive testing results and with the past recommendations for air monitoring, I think the best approach the state DEP could have taken and would have been most fair to everyone including Waste Management and local residents would have been to issue a probationary extension," Folger said.

SUBURBAN AND WAYNE TIMES

News Around Town VILLANOVA — U.S. Congressman Joe Sestak of Pennsylvania's 7th District will bring together federal, state, county and local officials to address emergency preparedness and flood prevention in his district on Aug. 14. The goal of the event at Villanova University is to discuss steps to prevent and deal with flooding. Experts will participate in two panel discussions, each followed by a question-and-answer session. ...Scheduled panelists include representatives from Villanova University,

Temple University-Ambler's Center for Sustainable Communities, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The event is from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Cinema Room in the university's Connelly Center, 800 E. Lancaster Ave.

DANVILLE NEWS

PPL officials developing cleanup plan for collapse WASHINGTONVILLE -- PPL Montour Power Plant officials are developing a clean-up plan for a 157-foot-wide section of a water distribution structure that fell from one of the huge cooling towers Tuesday. ... MacBride said utility officials couldn't recall any other incidents at the 36-year old bituminous coal-burning plant. "The plant just went through another rigorous certification through OSHA and was recognized with the Voluntary Protection Program Star as a top industrial safety site," she said. While Unit 1 shut down immediately after the incident, PPL has been monitoring the air from both cooling towers. There has been no evidence of asbestos found but PPL will continue to monitor the air, she said. There is material in cooling towers that contains asbestos.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

From Early Bird In Cleanup Effort, Beijing Moved Factories to Clog Air Elsewhere Seven years ago, when Beijing won the privilege of hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, the Chinese capital promised to fix its environmental problems. Among the toughest measures it took was to eliminate hundreds of highly polluting factories. But most of these companies didn't shut down. They simply moved. The village where fisherwoman Zhang Xiuping lives is now surrounded by factories. As recently as five years ago, this region about 125 miles east of Beijing was a resort, and its sea overflowed with pike, flounder and carp. Now there are few fish, and it's a rare day when Zhang, 53, can see the sun through the smoke. She can tell the direction of the winds from the color of the soot blowing by her home. The gray iron deposits come from the southern steel mills, while the white powder comes from chemical factories, and black dust from coal and coking plants.

From Early Bird Government Asserts Ivins Acted Alone Officials Detail Evidence, but Questions Linger. Government officials asserted yesterday that a troubled bioweapons scientist acted alone to perpetrate a terrorism scheme that killed five people, a case that centered on a near-perfect match of anthrax spores in his custody and a record of his late-night laboratory work just before the toxic...

From Early Bird Editorial: The Case Against Bruce Ivins The evidence that he was the anthrax killer is compelling, but an independent review is still needed. THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL evidence against Bruce E. Ivins appears overwhelming. Yesterday, the government identified the microbiologist, who took his own life last week, as the government's lone suspect in the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people and seriously sickened 17 others. In previously...

From Early Bird Land Trust Donates \$550,000 for Bay A nonprofit land trust is shutting down and

donating \$550,000 to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for its programs in Virginia. The funding is the Chesterfield Conservancy's remaining money. Trustee Dan Gecker said the conservancy was established in 2006 in response to rapid development in Chesterfield County, south of Richmond. The conservancy's mission was to promote the conservation, protection and prudent use of the area's open space and natural resources. Ann Jennings, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Virginia executive director, said the conservancy's donation is critical to her group's efforts in Virginia to restore the water quality of the bay and its tributaries.

From Early Bird Black Bear Sighted in Southern Anne Arundel A young black bear is wandering through southern parts of Anne Arundel County, state officials said yesterday. The yearling probably traveled from Western Maryland or Virginia in search of a suitable habitat, they said. Experts say bears, which are unusual in Anne Arundel, have been seen traveling across roads, fences and parking lots in Montgomery, Baltimore and Harford counties. "Experience has taught us that the safest response for the bear and Maryland's citizens is to let the bear wander through on its way to a more acceptable natural habitat," said Paul Peditto, director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service at the state Department of Natural Resources. State officials said people who encounter a bear should not feed or approach it, should make loud noises and should always give it an escape route. In a warning issued yesterday, the department said, "Black bears are not aggressive by nature, but can be dangerous if they become dependent on human food or are startled."

EXAMINER (DC)

Fixing a 'foul' problem « That's how Beth-Anne Bowen described the smell — stagnant in the oppressive summer heat — drifting from the sewage pumping station across the street. The day before, nearly 9 million gallons of raw sewage gushed from a broken pipe into the Patapsco River behind her Halethorpe bungalow, caking its banks with everything people put down the john — from soiled toilet paper to tampons to condoms. "We put down lime to absorb some of the odor," said public works engineer John Van Ness, picking his way through the aftermath two days after the spill. "But two hours ago, it was pretty awful." Baltimore County this year, combining for 13 million gallons of sewage flooding Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

Wicomico County needs new site for dredge spoils **QUANTICO, Md.** (Map, News) - Wicomico County officials are running out of place to put sediment dredged from the Wicomico River. A civil engineer overseeing the project, Jim Grindle, says Public Works officials are trying to find private landowners willing to sell their property. However, only two owners of suitable sites have expressed interest so far. Grindle says the county's site of last resort is on undeveloped county land off Whitehaven Road in Quantico. The property, however, was purchased with state funds and is intended to someday have a public marina. And area residents are worried about possible environmental harm. Grindle said the possible environmental impact "may be exaggerated."

Residents, planning board back Turf Valley condo plan

BALTIMORE (Map, News) - The development of Turf Valley in Ellicott City into a housing community — long embroiled in a battle over chemical contaminants in the soil that were used to treat the former golf course — could move forward. A proposed seven-story condominium development received not only the support of the Howard County Planning Board, but also the nearby residents of the Legends of Turf Valley, the overwhelming majority of whom signed a petition in favor of the Oakmont community. "We believe that the developers ... have done 'due diligence' in considering the impact on traffic, area congestion, and the environment," according to a statement from Helen Carey, chairwoman of the steering committee of the homeowners association's board.

NBC4.COM

Portable Lavatory Waste Illegally Dumped Into Four Mile Run Stream **ARLINGTON, Va.** -- Arlington residents are being urged to avoid Four Mile Run Stream after the second illegal dumping in the stream in two weeks. Portable lavatory waste was dumped into the stream near Westover Park is affecting water and parks all the way to the Potomac River in Alexandria, Arlington County officials said. Residents are advised not to fish in or have any contact with the water, including wading or swimming, until further notice.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

From Early Bird New post at DNREC raises questions High-level position viewed as political. Late last year, an organizational shake-up abruptly created a new chief of planning job among the top leadership posts at the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, just as Delaware's economy was losing steam. By February, the new position, a high-level job with merit system protections, had created a stir, with some saying the job was custom-made for Gov. Ruth Ann Minner's former aide and longtime adviser, political appointee Lee Ann Walling. A state budget crisis and eventual hiring freeze in March blocked efforts to fill the job, but not before House Majority Leader Richard Cathcart queried DNREC officials about their plans. "I questioned the need for it, and I still have those concerns," Cathcart said. "They have not talked to me. I'm kind of surprised that they're doing that without some justification. There are planners in DNREC currently."

From Early Bird Hazardous spill at Milford plant Firefighters, police and ambulance crews responded Wednesday to the L.D. Caulk division of Dentsply International Inc. in Milford after a spill involving hazardous materials. Workers mixed hydrogen peroxide with a surfactant in a plastic drum, officials said, causing a reaction that blew off the lid, releasing the material. State Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control officials said no one was hurt and there was minimal environmental impact.

From Early Bird sLetter: Schools have several ways to collect recycling, including private haulers A letter in the July 27 News Journal had the headline "DSWA policy change sends wrong message" and was written by an elementary school teacher. The Delaware Solid Waste Authority mission remains quite similar to hers: to educate others about recycling and how to take care of the environment.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

From Early Bird Commentary: Enough already with the plastic The City Council of Baltimore might not be ready to ban single-use plastic shopping bags, but I am. I'm done. I don't know when this happened exactly, but I reached some sort of tipping point with plastic bags a few weeks ago. Now I can't stand them. Some people don't want to see Kyle Boller as the Ravens' quarterback anymore. I don't want to see plastic bags.

From Early Bird sLetter: Mock disasters don't help prepare I read with interest the article "U.S. trims state's funding" (July 26). I think more federally funded disaster simulation exercises or grants for things

such as a one-day simulated "catastrophic event" at M&T Bank Stadium just don't cut it. Planned disaster simulation exercises with 100 or 200 people sitting in a stadium tagged with simulated injuries in an orderly fashion just do not reflect a real-life disaster. A better use of limited federal disaster funds would be to provide more funding to meet the day-to-day operational needs of our emergency and public health agencies.

Letter: Md. can't afford to build the ICC

In "Road block?" (July 31), state officials and AAA Mid-Atlantic officials lament the loss of transportation revenues as Marylanders drive less as a result of high gas prices. This shortage of funds gives us still another reason to cancel Montgomery County's Intercounty Connector.

The Maryland Department of Transportation admits that the ICC would not relieve congestion, and we know it would fuel more sprawl and lead to large increases in driving and greenhouse gas emissions. We also know that it would destroy thousands of acres of forests with streams and wetlands, and this would have a serious impact on the Chesapeake Bay. And with declining transportation revenues, moving forward with the ICC is certain to require major cuts in other road and transit projects throughout the state.

BALTIMORE EXAMINER

From Early Bird New trash bags at Maryland state parks will protect environment State park visitors in Maryland now can use environmentally friendly trash bags in a further step to be more green. "This entire state is looking at green options, and our state parks are often the face of the state," said Olivia Campbell, spokeswoman for the Department of Natural Resources. "Everybody can use these bags, and as they see the parks going green, they'll hopefully find ways to incorporate in their own lives and in their picnics." The bags are made of bio-plastics that come from renewable plants like corn or tapioca and decompose in six to 10 months, park officials said.

From Early Bird Anne Arundel extends fly ash ban The Anne Arundel County Council Monday unanimously approved extending by one-year a ban on dumping coal fly ash within the county. The council's action lengthens the current ban, which was set to expire this fall, until October 2009 on using fly ash, the byproduct of a power plant's coal combustion process, as infill material. The ban started last October in Gambrills after county inspectors found some wells contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic. Dozens of other wells were found with high levels of lesser contaminants such as aluminum.

From Early Bird Bush proposes cutting \$23 million in Bay funding (Wednesday) Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts would be dealt a blow under President Bush's proposal to slash \$23 million from the fiscal 2009 funding, advocates said. "If you cut those funds, you completely lose your edge, and the promise of clean water is erased," said Ann Swanson, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative group. Bush's updated fiscal 2009 budget request sent to Congress last week included cuts that would offset plans to spend \$172 million on staff and computer modernization at the Farm Service Agency. Among the cuts was the elimination of funding for the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program enacted as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. Other funding, such as money for the regional Environmental Quality Incentives Program for farmers' erosion control and conservation initiatives, also would be trimmed.

From Early Bird O'Malley announces plans to use ethanol pumps for state fleet Gov. Martin O'Malley on Tuesday announced plans to install new ethanol pumps in Maryland for 1,200 state-owned vehicles that can run on the renewable fuel, but don't have access to it. The state recently installed two new

pumps dispensing E-85 — a fuel blend that is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline — in Annapolis, Baltimore and Hanover. New pumps are planned in the next year for Easton, Hagerstown, La Plata and Salisbury. "While we're America in miniature, we're not so miniature that one pump is able to feed and fuel those 1,200 vehicles," O'Malley said. "If E-85 is going to be widely used, it needs to be widely available." The state has not been in compliance with an executive order signed by then-Gov. Robert Ehrlich in 2002 requiring 50 percent of the state's flex-fuel cars to use E-85 half of the time, said Chris Rice, who manages the transportation and alternative fuels program for the Maryland Energy Administration

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

From Early Bird Rocks with live explosives removed from SP shoreline The 150 tons of rocks embedded with live explosives that were discovered last week along a Severna Park community's shoreline were removed yesterday. Additional 5 pounds found in bottom layer. The 150 tons of rocks embedded with live explosives that were discovered last week along a Severna Park community's shoreline were removed yesterday. Now, the state fire marshal is investigating where the rocks came from before they were placed behind the waterfront home of Richard and Maureen Roden on Luna Lane in the Round Bay community, said Battalion Chief Matthew Tobia, a county Fire Department spokesman. More than 5 pounds of undetonated explosives were found in the bottom portion of the barrier by the time the removal was completed yesterday afternoon, said John Flood, engineer for the erosion project behind the Roden home. The rocks had been placed along the private shoreline to act as a buffer between the waves and land.

From Early Bird Bush moves to eliminate bay restoration funds Millions for Chesapeake left out of budget proposal. Just three weeks ago, farmers and environmentalists packed into a standing-room-only hotel ballroom in Annapolis to talk about how to divvy up a record amount of money for Chesapeake Bay restoration in the latest federal farm bill. Now much of that money is in jeopardy, as President Bush proposed eliminating the first year of a new five-year, \$188 million program for bay farmers. That cut of \$23 million is in addition to cuts the president is making to national programs that local farmers participate in. U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., was blunt in his assessment of the president's move. "President Bush's proposal to kill the new Chesapeake Bay farm bill funding belongs in the bay's dead zone," the senator said in a statement. "He is wrong on the science, wrong on our farmers' needs and wrong if he thinks the Congress will go along with this proposal." Now Mr. Cardin and other supporters will have to turn their focus from celebrating the program to fighting for its survival.

From Early Bird Building moratorium declared in Mayo Sewer capacity at issue. Anne Arundel County yesterday declared a building moratorium on the Mayo Peninsula until a new sewage treatment plant is built. The stoppage affects an area from Loch Haven Road to the end of the peninsula, which juts out into the South and Rhode rivers. The problem stems from a unresolved issue between the county and the Maryland Department of the Environment. MDE has not approved construction of a \$17.5 million sewage treatment plant - originally planned to be built by 2004 - because the outfall pipe would dump effluent too close to a protected shellfish area in the Rhode River. The plant would replace an aging one built in the 1970s and further building would put the current facility in violation of its current discharge permit. "Simply put, we do not have sufficient remaining capacity within our Mayo Water Reclamation Facility to support the approval of any new allocation of capacity..." said Director of the Department of Public Works Ronald Bowen. "Continuing to allow approvals of capacity beyond that would be a violation of our MDE permit for operations at the facility."

From Early Bird O'Malley vows to expand state's use of ethanol The state government is going to increase the amount of ethanol used in its fleet of vehicles by placing four new fuel pumps throughout Maryland. Gov. Martin O'Malley announced yesterday in Annapolis that the sites will be built in Easton,

Hagerstown, La Plata and Salisbury. The governor hopes continued emphasis on alternative fuels will increase independence from gasoline and improve the environment. "The only way the future changes, and changes for the better, is when we take responsibility," he said. The infrastructure for each pump costs about \$100,000 and the pumps will be completed in about a year. About 1,200 of the state's 9,000 vehicles already are able to use E85, a fuel blend composed of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. But there are only three stations where they currently can fill up, in Annapolis, Baltimore and Hanover. The state buys fuel on the wholesale market, where E85 was \$2.92 per gallon versus \$3.14 a gallon for gasoline yesterday, according to the state Department of General Services. Potential savings would vary on fuel prices and consumption, according to DGS officials.

From Early Bird Black bear sighted in Shady Side Robert Angle was watering his lawn outside his Shady Side home early this morning when he saw what he first thought was the strangest looking dog he'd ever seen walking along the shoreline. "I thought, 'That dog looks like a bear,' " he said. "I looked at it again and realized, oh, it *is* a bear." The 65-pound black bear stopped to look at Mr. Angle, who was setting up his sprinkler on Winters Road in the Idlewilde community at just after 7 a.m. "It paused for a moment, walked a little more, and looked back at me," he said. "If I had been smart I would have gotten my camera. I wasn't too smart. I hadn't had my coffee yet." Maryland Department of Natural Resources officials believe this is the same young bear that has been spotted in St. Mary's and Calvert counties in the past two weeks or so.

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

From Early Bird Editorial: Don't turn back on bays There has been a lot of debate recently about which steps make the most financial sense when it comes to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. One strategy with great promise, known in legislative circles as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed program, was written into the 2008 farm bill. Adopting an obvious tactic that could stem pollution, the farm bill provision supports -- financially and philosophically -- agricultural conservation practices that reduce chemical runoff from farmland. Because of the program's definite potential, it was especially disappointing to learn this week that President Bush's budget would eliminate funding for the Chesapeake Bay program. Maryland lawmakers, in fact, weren't just disappointed -- they were downright angry. In a statement, U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin summarized the situation well: "The president does not seem to understand that reducing pollution from farms is the least expensive way to control the excess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that pollute the Chesapeake Bay."

From Early Bird Facing deadline, Quantico land targeted for spoils QUANTICO -- With too much mud and not enough space, Wicomico County is exploring the use of public land in Quantico to hold the sediment excavated in Wicomico River dredging. Using 38 of the 342 undeveloped acres at property called Pirate's Wharf on Whitehaven Road is viewed as a last resort, but county Public Works officials will proceed with a plan unless private landowners come forward willing to sell property, said Jim Grindle, a civil engineer overseeing the project. In July, the county mailed letters to landowners of 50 parcels identified as suitable locations, but one day before a Friday deadline it has received just two responses, he said.

From Early Bird Easton, Salisbury to get ethanol stations SALISBURY -- The construction of four E-85 ethanol stations across Maryland, including locations in Easton and Salisbury, will begin within the next year.

From Early Bird Shore parks granted \$450,000 The Maryland Board of Public Works recently approved more than \$450,000 for local Program Open Space projects in the tri-county area, which includes money for new playground equipment, landscaping improvements and facility renovations.

Since 1969, Program Open Space has provided funding for the preservation of more than 323,320 acres across the state. The money comes from a percentage of the real estate transfer tax and is used for local and state parks throughout Maryland. This year, the Board of Public Works allotted a total of more than \$5.7 million for projects in the 10 counties. Most Maryland residents live within 15 minutes of an open space or recreational area funded through the program. "We are preserving one of our most precious resources -- our local and regional parks -- while helping communities throughout Maryland improve public recreation facilities," Gov. Martin O'Malley said. "We encourage families to take advantage of the beauty of Maryland's parks and recreation facilities, and explore the outdoors together in their very own backyard."

From Early Bird Somerset adopts new 911 procedures PRINCESS ANNE -- Somerset County Commissioners adopted new procedures for releasing 911 records Tuesday that includes fees for copies of tapes and other documents.

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

From Early Bird Buying organic: Consumers make trip to farmers market for variety, taste, health MOUNT AIRY — Carolyn Bartley eyed the colorful rows of fruit and vegetables at the Mount Airy Farmers Market Wednesday evening. She stopped at the display of organic green apples, picked one up and smelled it. "It doesn't smell like anything, and that's how food is supposed to smell," the Mount Airy resident said. In an effort to know where and how their produce is grown, Bartley and many other consumers are eating organic foods. Organic foods are grown without pesticides and other chemicals that can cause bodily harm. Wednesday was Green/Organic Day at the Mount Airy Farmers Market. The market featured a new organic vendor, Natural Zing. The Mount Airy-based company sells raw, vegetarian and vegan food.

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT

From Early Bird Millington gets update on comprehensive plan MILLINGTON A consultant for the town's planning commission continued a series of PowerPoint presentations at the commission's regular meeting July 24.

DUNDALK EAGLE

COUNTY PAYS FINE FOR TANK VIOLATION CASES

Three sites in Dundalk-Edgemere were among 13 Baltimore County facilities for which missing paperwork resulted in a \$28,968 fine. In a large-scale case, rare for Maryland municipalities, the county will pay the civil penalty for the oversight. Documentation for requirements such as leak detection activities and cathodic protection (a system designed to mitigate corrosion) was missing from 13 county facilities, including the Dundalk and Edgemere fire stations and North Point Government Center, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported last month. "At no point were any of these issues related to a leak or corrosion," Baltimore County spokeswoman Ellen Kobler said. An EPA inspector identified missing documentation at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in April 2005, EPA spokeswoman Donna Heron wrote in an e-mail Tuesday. As part of the settlement of that case, Baltimore County agreed to conduct inspections at other facilities. The county violations in Dundalk and Edgemere were identified in April and May of last year.

FEDS STILL OPEN TO COMMENTS ON LNG

Federal authorities continue to take community input on plans for an LNG facility at Sparrows Point and an associated pipeline ending near Eagle, Pa. While the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's stated deadline for public comment was June 16 for the terminal and pipeline proposed by AES Corp. of Virginia, FERC will still consider responses from the community. "Even though the comment period is

officially ended," FERC will review input, said Tamera Young-Allen, a spokeswoman for the commission. "We welcome comments."

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH

From Early Bird Report: Richmond area Va.'s smoggiest The Richmond area has been the smoggiest region of the state this year, topping even traffic-clogged Northern Virginia. Ozone, the main pollutant in smog, has hit unhealthful levels on 16 days so far this spring and summer, compared with 11 days in Northern Virginia. In the Hampton Roads area, where sea breezes help cleanse the air, ozone has hit the unsafe mark on seven days -- despite smoke from the Dismal Swamp fire. The measurements are revealed in a year-to-date chart the state Department of Environmental Quality released yesterday. The numbers, including those for past years, are derived from an ozone limit -- the amount of ozone allowed in the air -- the federal government issued this spring. The new limit is tougher, which means more days violate the standard. "It doesn't mean our air is dirtier than Northern Virginia's," said DEQ spokesman Bill Hayden. "It obviously means we still have a way to go before we have air as clean as we want it to be." High levels of ozone can damage the lungs and aggravate breathing ailments such as asthma. Ozone forms when pollutants from cars, power plants and other sources cook in the summer sun. Overall, ozone continues to be worse in Northern Virginia, Hayden said. The region has been out of compliance with federal clean-air requirements for nearly 20 years, and cars there must get emissions inspections.

From Early Bird Editorial: Efficiency Everybody is looking for solutions to mounting energy costs. Some efforts -- such as finding alternatives to carbon-based fuels -- require massive research and development by corporations and the federal government, and the man on the street has little to do but await developments.

From Early Bird Editorial: Inefficiency Speaking of energy: Congress broke for its August recess without addressing national energy policy. Despite conveying outrage regarding gasoline prices, the Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate refused to bring solutions to a vote.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

From Early Bird Beach Board OKs \$4M in energy-efficient projects VIRGINIA BEACH-- To save money, the School Board on Tuesday approved the installation of low-flow urinals, a geothermal heating system and energy-efficient lights in a few pilot schools around the city. The projects, totaling about \$4 million, are part of two energy performance contracts with companies that install the equipment and offer a money-back guarantee. If savings targets aren't met annually, the companies, AMERESCO and NORESCO, pay the school system the difference. One contract will last seven years, the other 13 years. The school system chose eight schools that could use upgrades and are not scheduled for major renovations or replacements in the near future. Brighter, more efficient lights and low-flow technology for sinks and urinals will be put in each of the schools: Bayside High School, Plaza and Brandon middle schools and Red Mill, Indian Lakes, Providence, Kingston and Rosemont elementaries.

ROANOKE TIMES

From Early Bird Franklin County farm turns into race track Volunteers helped carve miles of trails on a Franklin County farm for a track for dirt bikes and four-wheelers. PENHOOK -- Farmer Don Palmer

estimates his spread in southeastern Franklin County has been in his family for more than 150 years. For most of those, the Palmers and their ancestors farmed tobacco and then later, cattle. But they will be herding more than cattle this weekend as dirt-bike and four-wheeler racers of a variety of ages haul their machines to the newest race track in Franklin County.

CHARLOTTESVILLE PROGRESS

From Early Bird It's dry, but conditions not critical They're not asking anyone to stop flushing toilets or washing cars, but Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority officials say the recent summer dry spell has dropped some reservoir levels and lowered stream flows. Thomas L. Frederick Jr., the authority's executive director, said two local reservoirs are one foot to two feet below capacity and four of the area's five reservoirs are below capacity. However, he said that 89 percent of the total storage capacity is available. "What we've seen is a normal rainfall in the early summer, but a significant drying of soil and drop in stream flows, so far, in the late summer," he said. "We're monitoring conditions and keeping a close watch on the situation." Frederick said that he doesn't anticipate implementing water restrictions. That, however, could change depending on rainfall. Authority officials are using computer models to predict critical water levels. "If the situation gets worse, we could certainly call for tighter restrictions, but the models are showing that, at this point, that's unlikely," Frederick said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

From Early Bird Report: Richmond area smoggiest in Va. RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- Measurements from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality show the Richmond area has been the smoggiest region of the state this year. According to the figures, ozone has hit unhealthy levels on 16 days so far this spring and summer, compared with 11 days in northern Virginia. The main pollutant in smog hit the unsafe mark on seven days in the Hampton Roads area. The numbers are derived from an ozone limit issued this spring by the federal government. The new limit is tougher, which means more days violate the standard. Spokesman Bill Hayden says ozone continues to be worse in northern Virginia, which has been out of compliance with federal clean-air requirements for nearly 20 years.

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

Air Board Issues Permit City and Mirant join forces urging Air Board permit approval. After years of confrontation and legal maneuvering between Mirant Mid-Atlantic, LLC, and the City of Alexandria, the State Air Pollution Control Board finally approved a new state operating permit for Mirant's Potomac River Generating Station during a special July 30 meeting at the Holiday Inn on Eisenhower Avenue. The new permit allows the plant to begin a stack merge project that is designed to improve air quality in Alexandria by increasing the height of emissions, thereby disbursing them over a larger regional area. It also requires Mirant to activate those units first that provide the highest level of pollution control. This pollution control feature of the 23 page operating permit by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued to Mirant CEO Robert Driscoll on July 31, was drafted and presented at the last minute by the City during the public hearing. The city asked for it in order to insure that the highest level of pollution control would be achieved when the merged stacks are activated, according to City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa. The amendment was approved unanimously by the Air Board as was the operating permit.

DAILY PRESS

Reserve Fleet's vanishing act continues As the 75th ship departs the ghost fleet, the Maritime administrator envisions even more leaving. NEWPORT NEWS - The vanishing act of the James River ghost fleet could continue to the point that it numbers only about 15 ships by the end of next year, the head of the U.S. Maritime Administration said Wednesday. On Wednesday morning, Maritime Administrator Sean T. Connaughton marked the departure of the 75th ship to leave the James River Reserve Fleet since Jan. 1, 2001, when there were 107 reserve ships in the river. The fleet — which

included more than 800 ships in the years after World War II — now numbers 34, after tugboats hauled the Navy fleet oiler Truckee to Bay Bridge Enterprises in Chesapeake on Wednesday. The exodus was initiated by a congressional mandate due to concern over aging, decrepit ships and the hazardous materials they carried. But the departures have picked up the pace in the past two years as the worst of the ships were taken care of, high scrap steel prices created a demand for the vessels and a political stalemate over the reserve fleet in California directed the Maritime Administration's effort to thinning the fleets in the James and in Beaumont, Texas.

Artist to 'empower' kids at Bay DaysWyland will promote environmental awareness through workshops and a traveling exhibit. HAMPTON - — Wyland, the internationally-known muralist famous for gigantic underwater seascapes like the one on the side of the Waterside Drive parking garage in Norfolk, will be the master of ceremonies for this year's Bay Days. The 26th annual Hampton Bay Days is scheduled for Sept. 5-7.

CHATHAM STAR-TRIBUNE

Water war shaping up between lake and river

GRETNA - A water war is shaping up over how much water should be released from Smith Mountain Lake. Lake groups and homeowners want the lake kept at or as near full pond as possible to ensure safe boating, recreation, and marine fire protection. Landowners downstream want enough water released for recreation, stream bank conservation, and the fishery. Both sides will have an opportunity to present their arguments when the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality holds a public hearing Thursday, Aug. 7, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Gretna High School.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

From Early Bird C8 study backs up lawsuit, judge told Early results of a landmark community study support claims in a new C8 lawsuit, a federal judge was told Wednesday. Preliminary data from the nearly 70,000-person C8 Health Project support previous findings that the DuPont Co. chemical damages the liver and raises cholesterol levels, Chief U.S. District Judge Joseph R. Goodwin was told. Dr. Barry Levy, an expert witness for Parkersburg residents, told Goodwin that the project is of immense help in understanding C8's health effects. "It's one of the largest studies of its kind ever undertaken in this country," Levy said. "It has tremendous statistical and epidemiological power." Levy testified Wednesday as Goodwin continued hearings in a lawsuit filed against DuPont over pollution of the city of Parkersburg's drinking water supply with C8 from the company's nearby plant.

From Early Bird Local biodiesel maker filling up counties' school buses Eight county school systems buying its renewable product. CHARLESTON, W.Va. - West Virginia's first biodiesel manufacturer is helping supply several West Virginia school systems with the renewable fuel for their school buses, Gov. Joe Manchin announced Wednesday. "We are proud to provide a clean, renewable fuel that lessens our dependency on foreign sources of oil," Dean Cordle, executive vice president of the Nitro-based AC&S Inc., said in a prepared statement. "Becoming the first commercial renewable fuel production facility in West Virginia is an honor for AC&S." AC&S, a chemical manufacturer that began in 1986, started making biodiesel at their facility in January and selling commercially in April, Cordle said Wednesday. AC&S's plant can produce up to 3 million gallons a year, he said.

From Early Bird Subdivision expansion approved A rare standing-room-only crowd filled the conference room at the City Services Center Wednesday, most of them to protest plans to double the size of Centre Court Village, a townhouse subdivision in South Hills. Most left unhappy after Municipal Planning Commission members approved the preliminary plot plan of developer Larry Dennison.

From Early Bird Chemical goo prolongs backup on Turnpike CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- All lanes of the West Virginia Turnpike near Chelyan finally opened up Wednesday afternoon, said Tyrone Gore, director of operations and training for the West Virginia Parkways Authority. Miles of traffic sat stranded on both sides of the highway Tuesday afternoon and into the morning hours Wednesday after two major accidents occurred within eight miles of each other. A northbound lane opened about midnight Tuesday, Gore said. A southbound lane opened about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, he said. "What held up traffic for so long is the fact that we had a hazardous material on the road and we had to call a hazmat team," Gore said. "It was a sticky gel substance."

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

From Early Bird Trash bags are the latest focus of municipal fight DUNBAR -- It's the newest rumor in the battle of Dunbar between Mayor Roger Wolfe and the city council. Is Wolfe hiding city recycling bags from the public? Has he buried them in a hole in the ground? City Council Finance Chairwoman Connie Boardman said some citizens have told her that Wolfe is purposely hiding the bags and saying the city has doesn't have any.

From Early Bird W.Va. installing birdhouses along interstates West Virginia's interstates are going to the birds. Birdhouses for purple martins and blue birds are being installed at rest areas and welcome centers across the state. The project is a joint effort of the Division of Highways, 4-H Clubs of West Virginia and purple martin enthusiast Zelma Boggess. The DOH says the birdhouses are being donated by David R. McClaskey, president of S&K Manufacturing in O'Fallon, Missouri

AEP chief says coal will remain critical After Michael Morris met with the West Virginia Coal Association's directors at The Greenbrier last Thursday, I asked him what his message was. "Collectively we have an educational challenge to help the body politic understand that coal has to play in the message for cost-effective electricity necessary to fuel economic growth," said Morris, who is American Electric Power's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "It's probably the same message President Bush made" at the association's meeting earlier the same day, he said. ... Instead of FutureGen, the Department of Energy is seeking proposals for several carbon capture and storage projects. Morris said AEP has applied to conduct one of those projects.

PARKERSBURG NEWS

From Early Bird Editorial: Clean Air -- Cleaning the air around the world Competitors and spectators at the Olympic Games in Beijing this week will see with their own eyes why progressive nations are refusing to agree to so-called "clean air" treaties that would come down hard on some countries and let others off the hook. They also will smell good reasons to reject such pacts-and may well choke on even more arguments against them. We refer to the level of air pollution in China, particularly in and around its large cities, of course. Even as athletes began arriving in Beijing for the Olympics last weekend, Chinese authorities had been unable to clean up the atmosphere around their capital. Despite strict, temporary curbs on pollutants, the air in Beijing was so bad that visibility was limited to about half a mile.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

From Early Bird Officials: Anthrax case solved, but still open WASHINGTON — The case of the anthrax-laced letters that killed five people in 2001 and alarmed a nation already traumatized by the Sept. 11 terror attacks has been solved — but will remain open for now to wrap up legal and investigative loose ends, U.S. officials said. The government was to brief victims and their survivors at FBI headquarters Wednesday — eight days after the top suspect, Army biowarfare scientist Bruce Ivins, killed himself as prosecutors prepared to charge him with murder.

From Early Bird Ahead of the Bell: EPA to rule on ethanol request NEW YORK (Associated Press) - Ethanol producers such as Archer Daniels Midland Co. will be closely watching Thursday as the Environmental Protection Agency rules on a request from the governor of Texas to waive the ethanol mandate. The EPA plans to announce its ruling at 1 pm EDT. An energy bill passed in December requires 9 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into gasoline from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 of next year. Texas Gov. Rick Perry requested in April that the government reduce the mandate to 4.5 billion gallons, arguing that ethanol production is raising corn prices for livestock producers and driving up food prices. An assortment of groups, including food processors, oil companies and some environmentalists also blame the mandate for contributing to the rise in food prices, which have sparked riots and hoarding in poor countries from Haiti to southeast Asia. Several agribusiness and ethanol companies, meanwhile, banded together last month to defend ethanol, including Archer Daniels Midland, Monsanto Co., Deere & Co. and DuPont Co.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

From Early Bird Commentary: The lessons of Love Canal lost unless Superfund is fixed (By Lois Marie Gibbs) Thirty years ago Thursday, President Jimmy Carter declared Love Canal a federal disaster area. The decision came after the discovery that the Niagara Falls neighborhood was built on top of 20,000 tons of toxic waste that had been dumped by a chemical company. The Love Canal contamination tragedy is very personal to me. In 1978 I was living there with my husband and two children when I began to wonder whether the kids' recurring illnesses were connected to the chemical waste. Research conducted by myself and several of my neighbors, coupled with our complaints, eventually led the New York State health commissioner to declare a state of emergency and close the area's 99th Street School (where my son Michael attended). That was followed by the evacuations of mothers and children under the age of 2. Then, Carter stepped in and the federal government was ordered to provide funds to relocate more than 200 families living within the first two rings of homes encircling the Love Canal toxic waste site.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE

From Early Bird EPA Expands Study of Pharmaceuticals in Waterways The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to conduct a detailed study of the disposal methods used by hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospices and veterinary hospitals that wish to discard unused pharmaceuticals. The EPA is seeking more information on the practices of the health care industry to inform future potential regulatory actions, and identify best management and proper disposal practices. EPA has assumed that one facility in seven, approximately 3,500 facilities, would be selected to receive the detailed questionnaire. To gather this information, the agency has drafted an Information Collection Request and is now seeking public input on the request form. Public comments on the Health Care Industry ICR will be taken for 90 days after it is published in the Federal Register, which should occur shortly.

McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

From Early Bird 890 new species discovered in Smokies GATLINBURG, Tenn. - A decade ago, scientists decided it would be smart to know exactly what plants and animals populate America's most-visited national park, the Great Smokies. Today they are 16,570 species into the nation's largest biological roundup, known in science-talk as the "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory" or ATBI. Maybe twice as many species are yet to be found, but that's just a guess. The casual visitor, jockeying to park at a crowded Smokies overlook, might expect the staff to already know everything that prowls, growls and photosynthesizes in its 521,000 acres.

TOWN TALK

Status Of Delaware Estuary Report Released

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary released its "State of the Estuary Report," following two years of collaboration among environmental scientists in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The purpose of the 36-page assessment is to provide insight into the status and trends of natural resources in the Delaware Estuary's watershed, which is home to approximately 6.4 million people. According to the report, the state of the Delaware Estuary is mixed. Some environmental conditions have seen dramatic improvements during recent decades, while others are becoming increasingly degraded.

MEDIA NEWSWIRE

Algae: Biofuel of the Future? (Media-Newswire.com) - In the world of alternative fuels, there may be nothing greener than pond scum. Algae are tiny biological factories that use photosynthesis to transform carbon dioxide and sunlight into energy so efficiently that they can double their weight several times a day. As part of the photosynthesis process algae produce oil and can generate 15 times more oil per acre than other plants used for biofuels, such as corn and switchgrass. Algae can grow in salt water, freshwater or even contaminated water, at sea or in ponds, and on land not suitable for food production. On top of those advantages, algae — at least in theory — should grow even better when fed extra carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) and organic material like sewage. If so, algae could produce biofuel while cleaning up other problems. "We have to prove these two things to show that we really are getting a free lunch," said Lisa Colosi, a professor of civil and environmental engineering who is part of an interdisciplinary University of Virginia research team, recently funded by a new U.Va. Collaborative Sustainable Energy Seed Grant worth about \$30,000.

BUSINESS WIRE

HP Earns Broader Certification for US EPA SmartWay Program PALO ALTO, Calif. — HP (NYSE:HPQ) today announced it has qualified all business PC, printing and server products shipped throughout the United States and Canada for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SmartWay (<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway/>) logo labeling program that aims to reduce the fuel consumption, greenhouse gases and other air emissions of surface transportation carriers. While the EPA has about 950 SmartWay Transport Partners, HP, in April, became the first company to qualify to have the SmartWay logo placed on its product packaging after it certified that its surface transportation carrier network for consumer accessories, desktop and monitor products was composed entirely of SmartWay-compliant carriers.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The lessons of Love Canal lost unless Superfund is fixed

thirty years ago Thursday, President Jimmy Carter declared Love Canal a federal disaster area. The decision came after the discovery that the Niagara Falls neighborhood was built on top of 20,000 tons of toxic waste that had been dumped by a chemical company. The Love Canal contamination tragedy is very personal to me. In 1978 I was living there with my husband and two children when I began to

wonder whether the kids' recurring illnesses were connected to the chemical waste. Research conducted by myself and several of my neighbors, coupled with our complaints, eventually led the New York State health commissioner to declare a state of emergency and close the area's 99th Street School (where my son Michael attended). That was followed by the evacuations of mothers and children under the age of 2.

NEW YORK TIMES

A Potion to Beat Back 'Frankenfish'

Hardly scary as babies, northern snakeheads grow to be destructive. No doubt someone would have identified the northern snakeheads around Ridgebury Lake and Catlin Creek sooner or later, even if Bill Thompson had not scooted his golf cart to the edge of the pond behind his house and shot two of them with a .22 in May. But in this case sooner was definitely better than later. Mr. Thompson notified State Department of Environmental Conservation officials, suspecting that he had shot the weird fish he had heard about on the Discovery Channel. They rushed to his pond. And Tuesday he sat in the same golf cart watching a swarm of workers, technicians and agents dump a fast-acting fish poison into the murky green waters and wade around with nets, scooping out whatever they found alive.

Letter: Ethanol and the Dead Zone

Re "Death in the Gulf of Mexico" (editorial, Aug. 4): The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, caused by agricultural, sewage and industrial runoff, is expected to grow just as the Environmental Protection Agency is considering a petition to waive the federal ethanol mandate in the 2007 energy bill. The mandate spurred higher corn production. From 2006 to 2007, 15 million new acres of corn were brought into production in the United States, contributing to the depletion of fresh water supplies and adding to agrochemical runoff from the country's corn belt that has already created an enormous dead zone.

MARKETWATCH

EPA, Geochemistry Researchers Affirm Granite's Safety

HOLLIS, N.H., Aug 06, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- The Natural Stone Council (NSC) today announced their unequivocal support for granite as a safe, natural material for use indoors based on prior research and, most recently, both an independent study funded by NSC member, the Marble Institute of America (MIA), and newly issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) statements reaffirming that granite poses no health risk.

USA TODAY

'Green' building codes sprout up across USA

As energy costs rise, more states and cities are adopting policies that encourage or require new construction to be energy-efficient. This week, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, signed into law what he called the nation's strictest "green" building codes. "There's been a huge groundswell in green-building leadership at state and local levels. It's remarkable," says Jason Hartke of the U.S. Green Building Council, a private group that tracks legislation and sets guidelines that become construction industry standards.

WATER TECHNOLOGY ONLINE

EPA treatment database now in the works FAIRFAX, VA — CGI Federal, Inc., a subsidiary of CGI Group Inc., has partnered with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) to develop a Drinking Water Treatability Database (TBD), according to an August 6 company press release. The database will be a publicly accessible Web site containing referenced data on the control of more than 250 drinking water contaminants by more than 30 water treatment processes, according to the release. The information will be gathered by environmental consultants from a variety of peer publications, research reports, conferences and other sources. CGI, an information technology services company,

worked with ORD to design the database and develop the public application, as well as the Web-based data entry tool, according to the release. To read the full article, click [here](#).